

**REMARKS**

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 16, 2004. Claims 1-30 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 23-25, 27, and 28 stand rejected. Claims 2-6, 10-14, 18-22, 26, 29, and 30 are objected to. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on August 16, 2004, which has not yet been considered by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this Information Disclosure Statement and return a copy of the PTO-1449 to Applicant indicating the Examiner's consideration of the submitted references.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-6, 10-14, 18-22, 26, and 29-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described below, Applicants have amended each of the independent claims of the Application to include the limitations of a corresponding one of these objected to claims.

**Section 103 Rejections**

Claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 213-25, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0031126 A1 to Mayweather et al. ("*Mayweather*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,434,863 to Onishi et al. ("*Onishi*").

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 17 to include the limitations of allowable dependent Claims 2, 10, and 18, respectively. Independent Claim 25 has also been amended to include similar limitations. Therefore, Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, as well as those claims that depend from these independent claims, should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

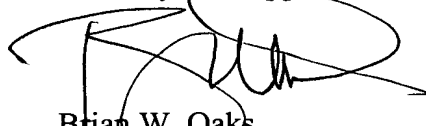
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953.6986.

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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**05073**